



**Special points of interest:**

- *Capacity to service up to 100,000 learners with 6,000 of these concurrently*
- *Choosing SOLAR for your training needs is a sound investment*
- *We have a simple, straightforward process for meeting the costs of content development*



In the past year SOLAR has seen substantial improvements and upgrades. Owing to your constructive comments and suggestions, and a dedicated development team, we have been able to make the necessary improvements to make it a more robust and user-friendly system. Our new capability has increased our capacity to service up to 100,000 learners with 6,000 of these concurrently.

Important to note is that along with the increased capacity, we are now able to help the various NASA Center disciplines with their

training development needs. Choosing SOLAR for your training needs is a sound investment—potentially lowering development costs, making the process of updating courses easier, and reducing or eliminating traditional training expenses. In addition, we have a simple, straightforward process for meeting the costs of content development.

If you are considering developing training for your organization and want the benefits of e-learning, please call me to discuss everything SOLAR has to offer to meet your training needs.

(You may contact Dr. Tony Lopez at 858.495.0508 or by e-mail at [tlopez@htshq.com](mailto:tlopez@htshq.com))

## New Courses on SOLAR

**Inside this issue:**

NASA STARS online course	2
SOLAR Workshop re-scheduled for December	2
New courses on SOLAR (cont'd)	2
Report from Goddard Space Flight Center	3
SOLAR version 1.6 release	3
The role of content vendors	3
Letter from the editor	4



### **IT Security Courses for 2003!**

#### Basic IT Security for 2003 (ITS-001-02D)

The Basic Information Technology Security 2003 course provides an examination of security issues concerning technology systems and their information. Topics address how to use your system in a secure manner, how to recognize possible security incidents, and practices for protecting your systems and information. All NASA employees, (civil servants and contractors), are required to complete this training within FY 03.

#### IT Security for Managers 2003 (ITS-008-02D)

Information Technology Security for Managers 2003 covers the basic concepts, processes, and practices IT security ad-

ressed in the Basic Information Technology Security 2003 course. In addition, the IT security roles and responsibilities for managers will be covered, along with an overview of the concepts and practices of risk management. This training is mandatory for all supervisors, line managers, ITSMs, CIOs, and other IT professionals.

#### Windows 2000 Security (ITS-009-02D)

This latest addition to our operating system-specific courses was written to help everyone who has Windows 2000 installed on their system and/or those who administer Windows 2000 systems. It contains two modules, one for Users and one for System Administrators.

Updated Course (for Headquarters Personnel):

#### HQ Quality Management System (SEC-002-02D)

(cont'd on page 2)

## NASA STARS on-line course in development phase



*(NASA's automated Staffing and Recruitment System [NASA STARS] was fully implemented in November 2001. NASA STARS users were trained during roll out and implementation on the use of Resumix and the web enhancements.)*

Recognizing the need for continued training of existing and new users, Headquarters, Code FT, has fully funded the development of a NASA STARS on-line course under the SOLAR program.

The course will be approximately eight hours in length, divided into four distinct modules. The modules cover Resumix and all web tools (except the applicant tools, such as the resume builder), with particular focus on the areas in which users have had the most difficulty. Users will have the option of training on a particular module or all modules. There will be scenarios, case studies, and tests for each module, plus a comprehensive test covering all four modules.

Candy Irwin is working with the

SOLAR contractors in the development of the course. They are on an aggressive schedule with anticipated delivery to the SOLAR program at MSFC for implementation testing in late November and availability for use by January 2003.

If you have any questions on the course, please contact Candy Irwin at 202.358.1206 or by e-mail at [cirwin@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:cirwin@hq.nasa.gov).

## December SOLAR Workshop

### DATE:

DECEMBER 4-5

### PLACE:

MSFC

The SOLAR Manager's Training Workshop has been re-scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Intergraph Training Facility near MSFC in Huntsville, Alabama. The purpose of this workshop is to provide training and a forum for managers and administrators to discuss the use of SOLAR and its effectiveness as a tool for con-

ducting training. Agency Training Officers, Training Administrators, Subject Matter Experts, Module Managers, and members of the SOLAR Configuration Management Board will be attending the workshop.

The tentative agenda for this year's workshop includes such topics as: SOLAR system metrics/report card for 2002, system update, training module development process, LCMS study findings, SOLAR/AdminSTAR tie-in

update, marketing of e-learning, administrator functions, ADL and SCORM standards, 508 update, e-learning portals, e-learning return on investment, and end-user input.

The two day workshop promises to be very informative and instructive. Additional information, such as the final agenda, directions, and lodging/meals information will be sent to the centers.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>!

## New Courses on SOLAR-cont'd

### Cont'd from page 1

This updated course will educate the student in the NASA HQ Quality Management System (QMS) as it complies with the updated year 2000 version of the ISO 9001 standard.

NASA first committed to process-based management in October 1996 when it issued the NASA

Strategic Management Handbook. The HQ QMS augments the Strategic Management Handbook.

The purpose of the training course is to provide employees with a basic understanding of how Headquarters implements the NASA Strategic Management System and how it relates to ISO 9001.



## Report from Goddard Space Flight Center



*(The SOLAR Team visited Goddard Space Flight Center in September and held a two-day SOLAR exhibit. The*

*message below is from the training professionals at Goddard.)*

Technology-Based Learning has truly come into a new phase at Goddard Space Flight Center. With the successful launching of SmartForce online classes at Greenbelt on September 6, 2001

and at Wallops Flight Facility on October 4, 2001 and the integration of satellite training via NTU/PBS on April 18, 2002, the workforce at Goddard has more options than ever.

In FY02, there were already 374 registered users of SmartForce courseware taking training in areas such as desktop applications, IT Security, and management.

There were also significantly more instances of training via the

SOLAR web site in the past year than ever before. This was especially true in the area of IT Security training—making it possible to reach at least 95% of each targeted area and 100% in most categories.

In an era of renewed appreciation for heightened security, Goddard moves forward with a strong foundation in online learning.

## SOLAR 1.6 Release Update

The development effort for SOLAR's version 1.6 release is underway and expected by year's end.

According to the team, the focus of the release will be the AdminSTAR interface and the Single Sign On (SSO) capability for the Site for Online Learning and Resources (SOLAR). When the NASA Online Registration System (NORS) application is released, it will use the SSO capability.

In addition to providing a single entry point for the SOLAR and NORS web applications, the SSO application will be the controlling application for establishing and maintaining Learner accounts to be used by these applications and the AdminSTAR client-server application.

Creation of the SSO capability will provide additional benefits to the AdminSTAR Administrators as they will be able to use their SSO - User ID and Password to login to

AdminSTAR using the current login screen. The interface will send test results from SOLAR to the Learner's training records in

AdminSTAR providing a single source for training records.

*(cont'd on page 4)*

**"CREATION OF THE SINGLE SIGN ON CAPABILITY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO THE ADMINSTAR ADMINISTRATORS"**

## The Role of Content Vendors

As part of NASA's long-term e-learning strategy, content vendors play a significant role in the training that takes place across the agency.

Headquarters and Centers throughout the country have selected vendor courses and made them accessible to the workforce. SmartForce, ElementK, NetG, and SkillSoft are some of the familiar

vendor names. A total of 1314 vendor course licenses were issued across the agency this year with many more expected for next year.

One of the objectives of NASA's e-learning strategy is to develop partnerships with government agencies to provide a comprehensive library of course material and training opportunities for NASA employees. This objective is being

met with the current vendor course offering.

The latest adoption of vendor courses is about to take place at Dryden Flight Research Center. According to Cecilia Cordova, Training Officer at NASA-Dryden Flight Research Center, Dryden will be obtaining 100 licenses in

*(cont'd on page 4)*



## Customer Service

Need help using the system to access or complete courses?

Contact the Help Desk at:

Help Desk (256) 544-7600

Toll Free (866) 419-6297

Email: [solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:solar.support@msfc.nasa.gov)

Interested in using SOLAR for your training needs?  
Please contact:

Dr. Tony Lopez (858) 495-0508

For technical development questions, please contact:

Sheila Fogle (256) 544-5638

Hector Garcia (256) 544-8301

Newsletter Publication:

Mercedes Sironi

NASA e-Learning Programs Administrator

Telephone: (858) 495-0508

E-mail: [msironi@htshq.com](mailto:msironi@htshq.com)



<https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov>

## SOLAR 1.6 Release Update-*cont'd*

*Cont'd from page 3*

Users and managers will be able to access all training records from AdminSTAR and eliminate the extra step of looking at SOLAR for online training history.

Other improvements planned for the 1.6 Release are fixes to the testing and administration processes. An enhanced calendar feature will also make its debut in this release.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please contact Dr. Terry Carlson by e-mail at: [Terry.F.Carlson@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Terry.F.Carlson@msfc.nasa.gov) or by telephone at 256.544.2461.

## The Role of Content Vendors-*cont'd*

*Cont'd from page 3*

such course areas as business skills, databases, Cisco, design and media, office productivity, programming and web development, project management, and workplace safety.

For additional information about vendor courses, please contact Dan Costello by e-mail at: [dcostello@htshq.com](mailto:dcostello@htshq.com) or by telephone at 703.519.7405.

## Letter from the Editor

We hope you enjoy reading the second issue of the NASA SOLAR e-Learning Newsletter. The first issue, which was published in August, is available online at the SOLAR website, <https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov>.

This bi-monthly newsletter is designed as an information and communication vehicle for the NASA training community. You will find articles of interest about e-learning, upcoming events, SOLAR updates, and other NASA training activities.

We welcome your comments and solicit your newsworthy contributions to make this a truly effective, agency-wide communication tool.